

# Kentucky Agri-News

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In cooperation with the  
Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
Richie Farmer, Commissioner

*Featuring:*

► **Cattle**  
► **Slaughter**

► **Sheep**  
► **Farm Numbers**

► **Cattle on Feed**  
► **Livestock Operations**

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## KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY INCREASES

The cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2006 was estimated at 2.40 million head. Inventory was up 150,000 head from the previous year and the largest in three years. An increase in the price of lighter weight cattle from 2004 brought about the increase in inventory. Kentucky farmers held back more of their 2005 calves where adequate feed supplies were available. Individual breakdown categories were all up with the exception of other heifers and bulls over 500 lbs. that were unchanged from 2005 and milk cows that were lower.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 1.23 million head, up 20,000 from the revised 1.21 million for 2005. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 1.13 million head and milk cows were estimated at 102,000. Milk cow numbers in Kentucky are at a record low.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 330,000 head, an increase of 15,000 head from the previous year. Beef replacement heifers at 180,000 head were up 10,000 from January 2005, dairy heifers at 50,000 were up 5,000 and other heifers at 100,000 were unchanged from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 205,000 head, an increase of 15,000 and bulls 500 lbs. and over numbered 75,000 head, unchanged from 2005. Calves under 500 lbs. were estimated at 560,000 head, and increase of 100,000 from the revised 2005 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 15,000 head, an increase of 5,000 head from the previous year.

The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 1.11 million calves, up seven percent from the 2004 calf crop.

**U.S. class** estimates on January 1, 2006 and the change from January 1, 2005, are as follows:

- **All cattle and calves**, 97.1 million, up 2 percent.
- **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 42.3 million, up 1 percent.
- **Beef cows**, 33.3 million, up 1 percent.
- **Milk cows**, 9.06 million, up 1 percent.
- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 20.0 million, up 2 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.90 million, up 4 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.28 million, up 4 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 9.80 million, up slightly.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.9 million, up 3 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.26 million, up 2 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.6 million, up 2 percent.
- **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.1 million, up 3 percent.

The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 37.8 million head, up 1 percent from 2004. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2004.

**CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS,  
CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP  
JANUARY 1, 2005 – 2006**

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	2005	2006	06 % of 05	2005 <u>1/</u>	2006	06 % of 05
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,250	2,400	107	95,438	97,102	102
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,210 <u>1/</u>	1,230	102	41,920	42,311	101
Beef Cows	1,100 <u>1/</u>	1,128	103	32,915	33,253	101
Milk Cows	110	102	93	9,005	9,058	101
Heifers 500 Lbs & over	315	330	105	19,573	19,978	102
Beef Cow Replacement	170	180	106	5,691	5,905	104
Milk Cow Replacement	45	50	111	4,118	4,278	104
Other Heifers	100	100	100	9,763	9,795	100
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	190	205	108	16,476	16,923	103
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	75	75	100	2,219	2,263	102
Calves Under 500 Lbs	460 <u>1/</u>	560	121	15,250	15,626	102
Cattle on Feed <u>2/</u>	10	15	150	13,745	14,132	103
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,040	1,110	107	37,505	37,780	101

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

## SHEEP AND GOATS

Goats in **Kentucky** were estimated at 74,000 head and sheep were estimated at 35,000 head. Sheep and lamb numbers increased 9 percent from January 1, 2005 and goat and kid inventories increased 6 percent. Goats and sheep have gained popularity in recent years with Kentucky's farmers as tobacco is being phased out.

Kentucky's total goat population was estimated on January 1, 2006 at 74,000 head. Kentucky's Angora goat population was estimated at 700 head, milk goats and kids at 5,300 and all meat and other goats and kids at 68,000 head. All breeding goats and kids were estimated at 63,550 head and the kid crop was 59,190.

The total number of sheep in Kentucky on January 1, 2006, estimated at 35,000, was up 3,000 from the 2005 number of 32,000. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 29,000, an increase of 3,000. All market sheep and lambs were unchanged at 6,000 head. Breeding ewes increased by 4,500 to 22,500, while breeding rams decreased by 1,000 to 1,500. Replacement lambs numbered 5,000, a decrease from 5,500 in 2005. Lamb crop for 2005 increased by 1,000 from 2004 to 23,000.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006, totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004. The leading sheep and lamb state was Texas with 1.09 million head.

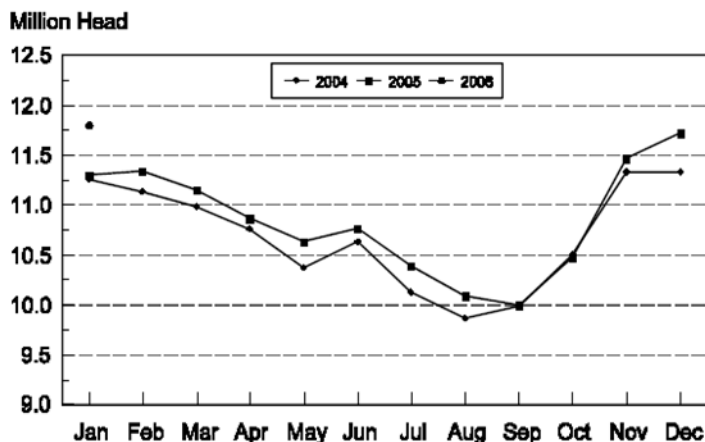
All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2006, totaled 2.83 million head, up 4 percent from 2005. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.35 million head up 4 percent from 2005. All market goats and kids totaled 471,800 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2006, meat and all other goats totaled 2.26 million head, up 5 percent from 2005. Milk goat inventory increased 1 percent to 288,000 head while angora goats were down 1 percent totaling 278,000 head. The 2005 kid crop totaled 1.84 million head for all goats, up 4 percent from 2004. The number one goat and kid state was Texas with 1.32 million head.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on January 1, 2006. The inventory was 4 percent above January 1, 2005 and 5 percent above January 1, 2004. The inventory included 7.57 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.15 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2005.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.88 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 8 percent above 2003. This was the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.79 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 575,000, 600-699 pounds were 554,000, 700-799 pounds were 430,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.72 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003. **Other disappearance** totaled 91,000 during December, 1 percent below 2004 but 1 percent above 2003.

**United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots**



## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004. December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. December 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY <sup>1/</sup>

Type	December 2004	November 2005	December 2005	December 05 % of	
				December 2004	November 2005
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,042	2,071	2,057	101	99
Veal	14.9	12.4	13.5	91	109
Pork	1,857	1,843	1,866	100	101
Lamb & Mutton	17.0	15.8	16.5	97	104
Total U.S.	3,930	3,942	3,953	101	100
Total Kentucky	41.2	42.1	42.3	103	100

<sup>1/</sup> Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 2004 & 2005 <sup>1/</sup>

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.8	1.6	1,612	1,428	874	883
Hogs	200.1	204.4	53,783	55,094	269	270
Sheep & Lambs	0.8	1.2	99	153	123	133
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,690.3	2,665.9	3,410,332	3,413,978	1,268	1,281
Hogs	9,249.9	9,233.3	2,496,228	2,510,190	270	272
Sheep & Lambs	242.1	231.0	33,816	32,931	140	143

<sup>1/</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

# KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

There were 84,000 farms in Kentucky during 2005, down 1,000 farms from the previous year. The average size of Kentucky farms, at 164 acres, was up 2 acres from 2004. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms as well as experimental and research farms are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the government programs such as the Conservation or Wetland Reserve programs are considered farms. Nationally, Kentucky ranks fourth tied with Tennessee in number of farms. States with more farms than Kentucky include Texas with 230,000, Missouri with 105,000 and Iowa with 89,000. Of the 84,000 Kentucky farms, 53,000 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999, 25,000 had sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 and 6,000 had sales of \$100,000 or more. Land in farms remains constant at 13.8 million acres. Farmland accounted for 54 percent of the approximate 25.4 million total acres in Kentucky.

The number of Kentucky farms with cattle and calf operations totaled 45,000 in 2005. Beef cow operations were 38,000, milk cows at 2,200, hog and pigs at 800, sheep and lambs at 1,300. Compared to a year earlier cattle and calf operations and beef cows were unchanged, milk cows lost 100 operations, sheep and lambs gained 100 operations and hog and pigs lost 200 operations.

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 was estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses. Farm numbers declined in the three smallest sales classes (\$1,000-\$249,000) and rose in the

two largest sales classes (\$250,000 or more). Part of the decline in the smaller sales classes was due to normal attrition, such as retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the sales classes were likely due to rising incomes. Many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2004 moved into the next higher sales class in 2005 without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations. The largest percentage changes from 2004 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.1 percent, to 1.17 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 3.8 percent, to 79,410 farms, in the \$500,000 or more sales class. The number of farms with less than \$250,000 in sales fell 0.8 percent from 2004 and the number of farms with \$250,000 or more in sales rose 2.4 percent. Land in farms also shifted from lower sales classes to higher sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 2.1 percent, to 118.4 million acres, while land operated by farms in the largest sales class, \$500,000 or more in sales, increased 3.0 percent, to 209.9 million acres. Farms with under \$250,000 in sales operated 571.3 million acres, or 1.7 percent fewer acres than 2004. Farmers in the two largest sales classes, representing operations with sales of \$250,000 or more, operated 362.2 million acres, up 2.0 percent from 2004.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 982,510 during 2005, down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Beef cow operations in 2005 at 770,170 were down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Milk cow operations with 78,295 were 4 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. The number of operations with hogs totaled 67,330 during 2005, down 3 percent from 2004 and 9 percent from 2003. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 79 percent of the inventory. The number of operations with sheep totaled 68,280 during 2005, up 1 percent from both 2004 and 2003.

**Internet Access:** Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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